

**Course:** FA/YSDN 1006 3.00  
Fundamentals and Methods: Visual Interaction Design  
(YSDN required design practicum)  
**Course Webpage:** <https://yorkdesign.github.io/YSDN1006-W18/>  
**Term:** Winter 2018

## Prerequisite / Co-requisite

FA/YSDN 1001 3.0 Visual Language or permission of the Department of Design. For students not enrolled in the BDes program, compulsory and voluntary supplementary fees apply. An intermediate knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator is required for this course.

## Course Instructor(s), Time and Location

**Course Director:** Phil Buchanan [info@philbuchanan.com](mailto:info@philbuchanan.com)

**Section M Lab 01:** Wednesday 8:30–12:30 DB 4034

**Instructor:** Philippe Jean [pjean@yorku.ca](mailto:pjean@yorku.ca)

**Office Hours:** *By appointment only*

**Section M Lab 02:** Wednesday 12:30–16:30 DB 4031

**Instructor:** Phil Buchanan [info@philbuchanan.com](mailto:info@philbuchanan.com)

**Office Hours:** *By appointment only*

**Section M Lab 03:** Thursday 12:30–16:30 DB 4034

**Instructor:** Aaron Wright [aaronmw@gmail.com](mailto:aaronmw@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** *By appointment only*

## Course Description

Examines and explores the forms of interactivity through designing visual representations of the human computer interface based on the introduction of the developing theories and models of interaction.

## Expanded Course Description

This course begins with a knowledge of visual elements and design principles and extends the students knowledge into interactive media. The course is an introduction to the principles and theories of interactive design and is taught through projects, weekly lectures, HTML/CSS tutorials and readings.

One of the fundamental characteristics of interactive media is that it is a medium that is displayed on some type of computer. Interactive media are driven by an underlying system of digital data and/or networks. The goal of interactive media design is to offer design solutions that are useful, usable and desirable. Interacting with computers should be an enjoyable experience.

## Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to assist students with developing a conceptual and technical framework for approaching interactive design projects and related theoretical issues.

The objectives of this course are that students will be able to:

- Investigate the visual grammar and creative strategies of interactive design
- Design and communicate multiple interactive concepts with digital tools
- Articulate individual ideas in visual, oral and written modes
- Develop code literacy to understand and apply basic programming concepts
- Perform technical implementation of design concepts into functioning interactions using HTML/CSS
- Undertake independent creative and technical learning and research
- Integrate and extend principles and practices across the design field
- Collaborate with peers to develop collective knowledge and skills

## Course Schedule

See course website for weekly schedules.

## Required Textbook

Duckett, John; HTML & CSS: Design and Build Websites, John Wiley & Sons 2011.  
ISBN-13: 978-1118008188

## Recommended Text / Readings

Refer to the course website.

## Other Resources

Supplementary course materials and case studies in print and/or digital format are available in the Scott Library at York, Sheridan Library, owned personally by the instructor or online (e.g. Safari Books and complete access to Lynda.com courses are accessible through your Sheridan Library account). The instructor will list these resources as determined by the class activities.

## Required Material(s)

Some specific materials may be required for completion of projects. Their cost will vary depending on the materials and techniques chosen by a student. Students will also need digital data storage devices such as USB flash drives and/or portable hard drives and also access to the digital-locker server at York.

## Proper Use of Facilities

Use of the YSDN facilities and equipment is for proper completion of assigned projects only. Privileges may be withheld for improper use. **Lateness or incomplete work due to the loss or suspension of privileges is not an acceptable reason for missed deadlines.** Students under suspension of privileges must find alternative means to complete projects.

## Evaluation

This course will consist of a combination of lecture, research assignments, hands-on tutorials and creative production of projects. Emphasis will be placed on the exploration of the contextual meanings of interactive design, visual syntax, visual expression, and documentation of the design process. When grading individual projects and assignments, you will be graded on the following four distinct aspects of the work:

1. Concept and Ideas – their originality and relevance to the problem. Lateral Thinking abilities, analysis of project requirements, understanding of the problem and its parameters, goals & objectives.
2. Refinement of the Concept – the ability to take the original idea(s) and further develop/improve and apply them. Vertical Thinking abilities, critical evaluation of ideas and solutions.
3. Skills – translation of ideas to visually & technically refined forms, demonstrated throughout the design process from early sketches to the finished state.
4. Presentation – the ability to communicate (visually, verbally and in written form) the systematic and logical direction your synthesis of the problem solving process has taken. Appropriateness of the final visual resolution of the project or exercise.

## Grading

The final grade for the course will be based on the following items weighted as indicated:

Project 1	35%
Project 2	40%
Exercises	10%
In-Class Exercises	10%
Attendance and Participation	5%

A grade will be given after each project is submitted. See online project descriptions for details.

**Note: Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to program or faculty grades distribution profiles.**

## Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing,

within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for *full year* courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade. For more information visit <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/grading-scheme-and-feedback-policy/>

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.). For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar at <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/academic/grades/index.htm>

Students may take a limited number of courses for degree credit on an ungraded (pass/fail) basis. For full information on this option see Alternative Grading Option in the AMPD section of the Undergraduate Calendar at [http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/faculty\\_rules/FA/grading.htm](http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2015-2016/faculty_rules/FA/grading.htm)

## Grade / Grade Point / Percent / Range Description

A+     9     90 – 100%     Rare and Exceptional Work  
Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques and exceptional skill and/or great originality in the use of those concepts /techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment/course.

A     8     80 – 89%     Excellent Work  
Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality.

B+     7     75 – 79%     Very Good Work  
Thorough knowledge of concepts and techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts/techniques.

B     6     70 – 74%     Good Work  
Good level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with considerable skill.

C+     5     65 – 69%     Competent Work  
Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with considerable skill representing the student's competence to continue and the department's wish to have the student continue.

C     4     60 – 64%     Fairly Competent Work  
Acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and techniques together with some skill.

D+     3     55 – 59%     Passing Work  
Slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and techniques together with limited skill.

D	2	50 – 54%	Poor Work
Representing a lack of effort or minimum knowledge of concepts and techniques, despite completion of required exercises.			
E	1	31 – 49%	Very Poor Work
F	0	0 – 30%	Inadequate Work

All courses taken at York and Sheridan, including failures, are included in grade point average calculations. To calculate your Grade Point Average please visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/finearts/sas/gpa.htm>

## Assignment Submission

Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in class or submitted online on the appropriate date.

At York, under normal situations, the Design Office **will NOT accept** drop-off of student work. In the rare

case of illness of the instructor on a due date, special arrangements between the course director and the office can be made for the submission of student work.

## Lateness Penalty

**Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized 10% per business day that the assignment is late.** Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor's letter).

## Missed Tests

Students with a documented reason for missing a course project deadline or a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g. doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the course instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the faculty.

## Attendance and Lateness

Regular and punctual attendance is a required professional behaviour in industry and therefore in this program. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. **Students are responsible for informing their faculty ahead of time if they are going to be late for a class or not attending.**

Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., may be entertained by the course instructor but will require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor's letter).

**Students will be responsible for all academic, financial penalties and consequences resulting from their non-attendance.**

## **Last Date to Drop the Course**

Friday March 9, 2018 is the last day that a student can drop this course without receiving a grade. Financial penalties may be involved and could be assessed depending on the precise date that the course was dropped.

To review important university sessional dates such as classes and exams start/end dates, financial deadlines, holidays and more visit: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw17>

## **Students Responsibilities**

1. **Always back-up/save/archive digital work on at least two different mediums (e.g. a cloud service and a flash drive). Computer hard drives in the labs will be erased of all student files on a regular basis.**
2. Inform the course instructor, in a timely fashion, of any problems that may interfere with the students' progress in the class.
3. Read and understand university policies and important course information (see next section).

## **Important Course Information for Students**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information.

### **Academic Honesty & Integrity**

YSDN students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. For full information visit: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

There is also an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website at [http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html)

### **Occupational Health & Safety**

Students must be aware of ergonomic factors related to the course work and should practice recommended exercise to prevent developing occupational related health problems. Please refer to the following web page for details: <http://www.yorku.ca/dohs/index.html>

## **Accessibility/Disability Services**

Both York and Sheridan provide services for students with disabilities (including learning, mental health, physical, sensory and medical disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials. These services are made available to students in all Faculties and programs at both institutions.

Students in need of these services are asked to register at both York and Sheridan as early as possible to ensure sufficient advance notice so that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Please note that registering with these services and discussing your needs with your professors is necessary to avoid any impediment to receiving the necessary academic accommodations to meet your needs.

### **At York University**

Additional information on Counselling & Disability Services is available at <http://cds.info.yorku.ca> or by contacting the offices of the disability service providers listed below:

Learning Disability Services - W128 Bennett Centre for Student Services (BCSS), 416-736-5383, [www.yorku.ca/cds/lds](http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds)

Mental Health Disability Services - N110 BCSS, 416-736-5297, [www.yorku.ca/cds/mhds](http://www.yorku.ca/cds/mhds)  
Physical, Sensory and Medical Disability Services - N108 Ross Building, 416-736-5140, [www.yorku.ca/cds/psmds](http://www.yorku.ca/cds/psmds)

The York Senate Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities is available at <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>

### **At Sheridan College**

Accessible Learning Services is located in Room B104, Trafalgar Campus. 905-845-9430 x2530 [www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/accessible-learning-services.aspx](http://www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/accessible-learning-services.aspx)

Counselling Services  
[www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/counselling-services.aspx](http://www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/counselling-services.aspx)

Health Services  
[www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/health.aspx](http://www.sheridancollege.ca/life-at-sheridan/student-services/health.aspx)

## **Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling**

York's Counselling & Disability Services and the Registrar's Office work in partnership to support alternate exam and test accommodation services for students with disabilities at the Keele campus. To review the exam and test policies and procedures visit <http://altexams.students.yorku.ca>

## **Ethics Review Process**

YSDN students are subject to the York University Policy for the Ethics Review Process. To review the Senate Policy on Research Involving Human Participants visit: <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/ethics-review-process-for-research-involving-human-participants-policy/>

In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g. interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your course director immediately.

## **Religious Observance Accommodation**

York and Sheridan are committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the course director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the course director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from at York, Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at [http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam\\_accommodation.pdf](http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf)

Further information on religious observance is available at <https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs>

## **Student Code of Conduct**

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website <http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82>

For more information visit <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/studentconduct.html>

## **Entering External Design Award Shows and Competitions**

In an effort to encourage more students to enter external award shows and competitions, the York/ Sheridan Program in Design will reimburse the entry fee for winning entries at outside award shows and competitions, up to \$35 (CAD) per piece entered.

To take advantage of this, students must:

- Enter the competition, pay entry fees and postage and arrange for delivery;
- Provide written proof that they have received an award/prize, and
- Provide the original receipts for the entry fee in Canadian Dollars. If the entry fee was paid in another currency, we require a receipt indicating the exact amount you paid in Canadian Dollars.

NOTE: Students are responsible for any other fees that may be associated with the prize. Please contact Barb Batke ([bbatke@yorku.ca](mailto:bbatke@yorku.ca)) for reimbursement after you receive the award.